

REMARKS

The Examiner has objected to the description of the drawings requesting that the figures be listed separately. By this amendment, applicants have amended the description of the drawings to provide a description of each of the figures 2a, 2b and 2c separately.

Applicants have also amended the specification on page 1 to correct the typographical error.

The Examiner has also rejected claim 22 under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph for the reasons set forth therein. Claim 22 has been amended to positively recite that each of the labels are designed for placement in said second area of said official postal product. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that it is clear that there is positive recitation for the function to be performed by the labels as currently set forth.

The Examiner has also rejected claims 1, 2, 5-8, 11-14, 17, 18, 22 and 28 under 35 USC § 102(a) as being anticipated by Hechinger et al. (US 6,029,883) for the reasons set forth therein.

Applicant respectfully submits that the Hechinger et al. reference could not teach or suggest the invention as currently set forth and as claimed. In particular, the present invention is directed to an official postal product having a first image area and a second image area. The Hechinger et al. reference discloses an envelope having a window for exposing a postal indicia. Thus, the product itself does not have a first and second image area but a window through which a postal indicia may be seen. This is in contrast to the present invention which is directed to an official postal product which comprises a first image area and a second image area. The first image area having an official postal indicia. This is not taught or suggested by Hechinger et al. nor is there any suggestion to provide such. Hechinger et al. discloses two separate and distinct pieces, an envelope and a postal product separate and apart from the envelope. This is in contrast to the present invention. It is more clearly pointed out by dependent claim 5 wherein the official postal product is an envelope. This highlights the fact that in the present invention the official postal product is the item that contains both the official postal indicia and the second image. This is clearly not taught or suggested.

The Examiner has also rejected claims 3, 4, 9, 10, 15, 16,, 19-21, 29 and 30 under 135 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hechinger et al. for the reasons set forth therein. These are all dependent claims which depend upon independent claim previously discussed. Thus, these dependent claims are patentably distinct at least for the same reasons previously discussed with the independent claims.

In summary, applicant respectfully submits that the application in present form is in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Frank Pincelli", written over a horizontal line.

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Version With Markings to Show Changes Made

In the Specification:

The paragraph on page 1, line 9 has been amended as set forth below:

At present, official postage stamps are designed to accept a cancellation mark as the stamp passes through the postal sorting equipment. The cancellation mark shows the stamp has been used as postage on a piece of mail and cannot be used again. With the advent of the personalized postage stamp as described in U.S 5,873,605 a consumer can submit a personal image and have the personal image become part of the postage stamp 10 as shown in Fig. 1. The stamp 10 comprises an official postal image (indicia) 20 printed in an official postal image area 24 bordered on the inside border by lines 25, 26, 27, and 28 and on the outside edge by perforations 30. The stamp 10 includes a personal image 40 lying inside the personal image area 45 bordered by the lines 25, 26, 27, and 28. The personalized postage stamp 10 can be created using several methods. Images that can be used for the personal image portion of the personalized postage stamp 10 can be consumer images obtained from a variety of sources. For example, but not limited to, consumer image files stored in digital format on floppy disks, Picture CDs, Photo CDs, CD-ROMs, down loaded from the Internet, and negatives and prints scanned using the consumer's own scanner.

The paragraph on page 5, line 27 has been amended as set forth below:

Fig. 2a, ~~2b, and 2c~~ are is a plan views of a personalized postage stamp made in accordance with the prior art;

Two new paragraphs have been inserted on page 5, after line 28.

In the Claims:

22.(Once amended) A kit for producing an official postal product having personal image comprising;

a first sheet having a plurality official postal products each of said products having a first official image area having an official postal indicia and a second area for receiving a personal image;

a second sheet having a plurality of labels each having a personal image, each of said labels being designed for placement ~~adapted to be placed in~~ said second area of said official postal product, each of said labels having a protective coating thereon such that an official postal cancellation mark will not be permanently adhered to said personal image.

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